

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**SB039**

Question Serial No.

0481

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Department will commission a fireboat station within Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter in 2007-08. Please provide the details of this measure and the expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. CHAN Wai-yip, Albert

Reply: In view of the great number of boats berthed in Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter (particularly during the fishing moratorium, Lunar New Year and Tai Ping Ching Chiu) and the large floating population in the area, the Fire Services Department (FSD) is constructing a fireboat station with berthing facilities at the south-west seafront of the Cheung Chau Typhoon Shelter with a view to further enhancing the efficiency of fire-fighting and rescue services in Cheung Chau and nearby waters. The Cheung Chau Fireboat Station is expected to be commissioned in January 2008. FSD will deploy Fireboat No. 2, currently stationed at Mui Wo, to the new fireboat station.

The estimated construction cost for this works project is about \$12 million. The annual recurrent expenditure of the new fireboat station is estimated at \$580,000.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**SB040**

Question Serial No.

**0750**

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Administration will monitor the performance of registered fire service installation contractors in 2007-08. Did the Administration carry out similar monitoring before? If yes, how many contractors were monitored in 2005 and 2006 and what was their general performance? Why is it necessary for the Administration to particularly reinforce such work in 2007-08? Please provide the details and estimated expenditures involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The performance of all registered fire service installation contractors ("the Contractors") has always been monitored by the Fire Services Department (FSD). According to the Fire Service (Installations and Equipment) Regulations (Cap. 95B), the Contractors shall issue to the person on whose instructions the work was undertaken a certificate and forward a copy thereof to the Director of Fire Services after completion of the work. On receipt of such copy, FSD will carry out random inspections to ensure that the fire service installations concerned are in good condition and, in doing so, the Department can also monitor the performance of the Contractors at the same time.

Details regarding the monitoring of the Contractors in 2005 and 2006 are as follows:

Item	2005	2006
Total no. of Contractors	1 165	1 173
No. of certificates being randomly inspected	8 176	9 849
No. of cases of irregularities	9 (0.11%)	4 (0.04%)
No. of cases submitted to the Registered Fire Service Installation Contractors Disciplinary Board for hearing.	9	2 (the remaining 2 cases are being processed)

In view of the above, FSD is generally satisfied with the overall performance of the Contractors. There is no plan to particularly reinforce the monitoring work in 2007-08, and no additional expenditure is therefore involved.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Reply Serial No.

**SB041**

Question Serial No.

0751

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Why will the Administration review the legislative provisions regarding the registration scheme for fire service installation contractors in 2007-08? What is the implementation timetable?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The Fire Services Department (FSD) has been conducting a review on the registration scheme for fire service installation contractors with a view to ensuring that their classification and delineation of responsibilities are commensurate with the advancement in technology and the newly introduced installations and equipment in the market. The review will continue in 2007-08. FSD will consult the industries when there is a concrete proposal.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Reply Serial No.

**SB042**

Question Serial No.

0752

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The number of prosecutions instituted by the Administration against fire hazards in 2006 was 128. Please provide a breakdown by type of buildings and premises.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The breakdown of the 128 prosecutions instituted against fire hazards in 2006 by type of buildings and premises is as follows:

Industrial building	Residential building/domestic portion of composite building	Commercial building/commercial portion of composite building	Roadside	Open area	Total
14	4	33	1	76	128

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Reply Serial No.

**SB043**

Question Serial No.

0753

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (2) Fire Protection and Prevention

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Of the 313 prosecutions instituted by the Administration against dangerous goods and timber stores in 2006, how many cases involved second-time prosecution or more?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: Among the 313 prosecutions instituted against dangerous goods and timber stores in 2006, the offenders in 44 cases were prosecuted for the second time and seven of these cases were prosecuted twice within the same year. Among the above prosecutions, there was no case involving third-time prosecution or more.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Reply Serial No.

**SB044**

Question Serial No.

0754

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Administration will increase the number of fire appliances with first responders in 2007-08. In this connection, will the Administration review the "First Responder Programme" which has been put into full operation since October 2005? As first responders attended to 25 223 emergency ambulance calls in 2006, will the Administration review the need for increasing manpower?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: After the full implementation of the "First Responder Programme" in October 2005, the Fire Services Department (FSD) has reviewed the effectiveness of the Programme and considered that there was a need for a second fire appliance that can provide first responder service at selected fire stations, so as to increase the flexibility in manpower deployment and to cope with service demand. As such, FSD started to expand the Programme in November 2005. As at end 2006, there were 37 fire stations with a second fire appliance that can provide first responder service. The Programme will continue to expand to meet actual needs.

The "First Responder Programme" is a value-added service provided by frontline fire personnel. FSD will continue to train more frontline fire personnel to be first responders to cope with service demand. As the duties of first responders are undertaken by existing frontline fire personnel, no additional manpower is required for the implementation of this Programme.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Reply Serial No.

**SB045**

Question Serial No.

0755

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Administration will continue to explore the feasibility of introducing a Medical Priority Dispatch System in Hong Kong in 2007-08. What is the progress of the study and when is it expected to complete?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: At present, emergency ambulance calls are addressed on a next-in queue basis, and there is no mechanism to differentiate the calls in terms of urgency. In view of this, the Fire Services Department (FSD) commissioned a consultancy to study the feasibility of implementing a Medical Priority Dispatch System (MPDS) in Hong Kong. In October 2005, the consultant completed the study, which included making reference to some international practices, and recommended the implementation of MPDS in Hong Kong to enable better identification of critical patients and thus saving more lives by a quicker response to these calls. The Security Bureau (SB) has set up a Steering Committee on MPDS to scrutinize the findings of the consultant's study and to propose whether or not to implement the MPDS. The Committee comprises Legislative Council members, representatives from FSD and the Hospital Authority, accident and emergency experts and academics, and representatives from FSD's staff unions. As there are many issues to be discussed, which include classification of calls and integration with the Third Generation Mobilizing System, FSD is currently further formulating concrete proposals. SB and FSD will work closely with the Steering Committee, and will consult the Legislative Council and the public when concrete proposals are available within this year.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**SB046**

Question Serial No.

0756

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The Administration will commission the ambulance facilities at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point and the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point in 2007-08. Please provide the details and the estimated expenditure involved.

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: The ambulance facilities to be set up by the Fire Services Department (FSD) at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point are expected to be commissioned in July 2007. In the estimate of 2007-08, FSD has earmarked about \$3.2 million for commissioning the above facilities, of which \$2.5 million will be for the salaries and allowances arising from the creation of 4 Senior Ambulanceman and 8 Ambulanceman posts. The remaining \$700,000 will cover the operating expenses of the facilities.

The ambulance facilities at the Lok Ma Chau Spur Line Control Point are expected to be commissioned in July 2007. The appliances and manpower requirements for the new facilities will be met by redeployment of existing resources. Therefore, no additional posts are required to be created. Other operating expenses, including the costs of electricity, electrical and mechanical maintenance and cleaning services, are estimated at \$23,500 per annum.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007



**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Reply Serial No.

**SB047**

Question Serial No.

0757

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: The provision for 2007-08 is \$49.8 million (6.3%) higher than the revised estimate for 2006-07. Please provide a breakdown of the creation of the 36 posts. What is the manpower and expenditure involved in the replacement of ambulances?

Asked by: Hon. LAU Kong-wah

Reply: There will be a net creation of 36 posts under the programme of Ambulance Service in 2007-08. The details are as follows:

Rank	No. of posts created/ deleted	Reason for creation of posts	Annual expenditure on salary (\$)
Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	+ 1	To create a time-limited post for the planning of emergency ambulance service for the 2008 Olympic and Paralympic Equestrian Events.	+897,180
Senior Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	+ 1	To improve the management structure of the Ambulance Command so as to reinforce internal management and upgrade service quality.	+1,008,480
Assistant Chief Ambulance Officer	+ 2		+1,794,360
Superintendent (Ambulance)	- 1		- 747,960
	+ 2		+2,054,880
Senior Ambulanceman	+10	To provide 5 additional "ambulance shifts" to cope with the demand for emergency ambulance service.	+2,485,800
Ambulanceman	+20		+3,667,200
	+30		+6,153,000

Ambulance Officer	+ 3	To be responsible for operating the newly-provided "Rapid Response Vehicles" in areas with large demand so as to enhance the monitoring of frontline services and to take command of operations in large-scale incidents.	+1,149,300
Senior Ambulance Officer (SAO)	+ 3	To upgrade the Depot Commander posts of Lau Fau Shan Ambulance Depot, Braemar Hill Ambulance Depot and Kowloon Tong Ambulance Depot from AO to SAO so as to strengthen overall management.	+1,796,400
Ambulance Officer (AO)	$\frac{-3}{0}$		$\frac{-1,149,300}{+ 647,100}$
Senior Ambulanceman (SAmbm)	+ 4	To upgrade 4 existing Ambm posts to SAmbm so as to create Ambulance Supervisor posts for the ambulance facilities at the Shenzhen Bay Control Point, which will be commissioned in July 2007.	+ 994,320
Ambulanceman (Ambm)	$\frac{-4}{0}$		$\frac{-733,440}{+ 260,880}$
	Total: $\frac{36}{0}$		$\frac{+11,162,340}{0}$

The Fire Services Department has earmarked a cash flow of about \$21.1 million in 2007-08 for the replacement of 36 ambulances. As this only involves replacement of existing ambulances, no additional manpower is required.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
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Reply Serial No.

**SB048**

Question Serial No.

2689

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (1) Fire Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Regarding the Third Generation Mobilizing System,

- (a) what was the number of system failures in 2006? What were their types? What was the average time for repair? What were their impacts on fire and ambulance services?
- (b) what are the estimated expenses and maintenance costs for the system improvement works in 2007-08?

Asked by: Hon. SIN Chung-kai

- Reply:
- (a) In 2006, the Third Generation Mobilizing System ("the System") experienced one failure which affected the overall mobilizing function, resulting in a shift to manual deployment of fire and ambulance appliances. The failure involved a software problem in the computer system, and the System resumed normal in 13 minutes. During the incident, the Fire Services Department (FSD) received one special service call and two ambulance calls. All the above-mentioned calls were responded to within the target response time.
  - (b) In addition to the continuous adjustment to the performance of the System, with a view to upgrading its operation efficiency, FSD also plans to set up wireless LAN facilities in fire stations and ambulance depots in 2007-08. When the software of the Mobile Data Terminals in fire appliances and ambulances requires updating or upgrading, the Central Server will automatically transmit the new software to the Mobile Data Terminals through the wireless LAN in fire stations/depots, thereby enhancing the effectiveness of software updating procedures. FSD is discussing with the contractor the details of the above plan and the costs of such system improvement work. The expenses involved will be covered by the approved commitment for the System (\$718.6 million) whereas the maintenance cost will be covered by the operating expenses.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 15.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**SB049**

Question Serial No.

0748

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: How many ambulance calls received in 2006 were actually not a matter of emergency?  
Would the Department conduct any review in respect of the abuse of ambulance service so as to ensure effective use of public resources?

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: As the Fire Services Department (FSD) currently has no mechanism to differentiate the calls in terms of urgency, there are no data on calls actually not of emergency. Nevertheless, as we see from the cases handled daily, it may not be necessary for some people to use the emergency service provided by ambulances. If such people can be encouraged to use ambulance resources appropriately, FSD can handle other patients who are in greater need of immediate treatment more speedily.

To ensure that ambulance resources are more targeted at persons with genuine needs, FSD will continue to encourage appropriate use of emergency ambulance service through public education such as broadcasting announcements in the public interest and organizing Ambulance Service Campaigns. FSD is also studying the feasibility of implementing a Medical Priority Dispatch System in Hong Kong to enable better identification of critical patients and thus saving more lives by a quicker response to these calls.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Name in block letters KWOK Jing-keung

Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007

**CONTROLLING OFFICER'S REPLY TO  
INITIAL WRITTEN QUESTION**

Reply Serial No.

**SB050**

Question Serial No.

0749

Head: 45 Fire Services Department

Subhead (No. & title):

Programme: (3) Ambulance Service

Controlling Officer: Director of Fire Services

Director of Bureau: Secretary for Security

Question: Under this programme, there will be a net creation of 36 posts in 2007-08. Please provide the details of such posts (including the ranks of the posts to be created and deleted, and the necessity of creating the new posts).

Asked by: Hon. TAM Heung-man

Reply: There will be a net creation of 36 posts under the programme of Ambulance Service in 2007-08. The details are as follows:

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Post Title Director of Fire Services

Date 14.3.2007